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A Professor Cairnes, of Dublin University, has put forth a book upon the effect of slavery on the progress of civilization and improvement, wherein he falls into the usual errors of those who do not fully appreciate what they write about. The Westminster Review is delighted with the Professor's performance, and indorses all his statements and conclusions. Of course slavery is a very bad institution in many ways.

The author thinks that the non-slaveholders in the South have no regular employment; that they don't work, and are ready for any lawless enterprise; and it never occurs to him that slaveholders do anything. It might occur to a man of common sense that five millions of people must needs do something for a living; but it does not so occur to these philosophers.

The author and the reviewer think that slavery was the cause of this rebellion, and scout at any other suggestion. It was not the revenue laws, they conclude very justly.

This is a shallow view of the subject, and may impose on the superficial, especially at a distance. Still it is marvelous that the old cause of trouble, ambition, is overlooked.

It would not be true to say that slavery had nothing to do with the rebellion; it was the hobby ridden by politicians to enlist supporters. That is all of it. The conspirators who got up this rebellion understood that it would damage the value of slave property and render it insecure. They didn't care if it did. They were out of favor in this Union, and foresaw that its honors and emoluments had gone out of reach.

This same cause, ambition, came very near raising a rebellion upon the election of Jefferson. It was the officers that were at stake. It was sectional ambition that did create a rebellion in New England in 1812-14.

It was this same ambition that made the rebellion in Kansas. It is idle to tell us that politicians got up all those excitations and this rebellion from any far-reaching theory about slavery or anti-slavery. They never cared enough for either. These small politicians don't get up so much of a fuss for anything so remote; and the statesman is too wise to sacrifice the present for any wild conjectures as to the effect of African slavery in centuries to come.

These motives are too high to influence the mass of Jeff. Davis' Government, and too far-fetched to influence the wiser men who are joined to this rebellion. In the progress of the contest it becomes one of passion and pride. There is no theory or rational notions of interest in it.

The Abolitionist is influenced by a malignant hate of the slaveholder, not because he is a slaveholder, but because he has been a political opponent, and stands in the way of his ambition.

He has no feeling of philanthropy for the negro. He doesn't care what becomes of him, so the master is put out of the way. One of the most malignant of this class coolly calculates that the negro race out of the protection of the system of slavery will perish like the Indian, and yet he is seeking to destroy that system by which the race is protected.

This author and his reviewer don't tell us what is to become of the four millions of negroes; how he is to survive at all when set loose from the system that now protects him.

Generally the Abolitionist in this country doesn't entertain this question; and yet it is the question for the statesman to solve. No one has yet undertaken to tell us what is to become of the negro; what is to be the substitute for the system of slavery which protects the race from annihilation.

This writer goes to the whole length of the Abolition programme to get rid of slavery; but he supposes a dissolution of the Union would accomplish the end more gradually, and, perhaps, better.

The loyal portion of the country will look, we apprehend, to the army of the South and the Southeast. In those quarters military and not political necessities will control the commanders. The army of the Potomac will defend Washington, whilst the armies in other quarters do the work of putting down the rebellion.

The army of the Potomac is too near Washington, and there are too many advisers. There is General Halleck, Secretary Stanton, the President, and, in a few days, we shall have near the seat of war and authority, all the Abolition Generals in Congress, who must have a word to say upon every movement.

Any army can do nothing effective in such a condition. Grant that these advisers all desire success, each wants it his way. If a General should dash on under his own plan and put down the rebellion, he might be too formidable for the pretensions and aspirations of some one else who may assume to have authority.

It is charged, with too much truth for anybody's credit, that McClellan's plans were interfered with and nullified again and again. No other General will fare any better.

Political reasons will control the army of the Potomac more or less, and when a General finds that he is embarrassed and can't accomplish much, he will be removed, and some one else be called to try his hand. Fremont is the coming man, in the minds of the radicals, but he will not be trusted. What he said about red tape, and his late speech about arrests, will set him back. If they could find a man to win victories, and not be popular or ambitious, he would be the man; but he is hard to find. Let them maneuver at Washington, and at least protect that city. The armies elsewhere will do the business.

That startling announcement of the New York Tribune, that certain propositions had been sent to Richmond by some parties in New York, and which shocked the Tribune very much, the World showed to be the Tribune's own proposition, made at length just after the President's proclamation. Well, no wonder Greeley was surprised and indignant. Nobody has a right to steal his thunder, and we shall see that he is not cheated.

The story appeared rather fabulous; but there may be something in it. We give the story as the Tribune put it forth:

We are credibly informed that clandestine negotiations have been opened between certain Democratic leaders in this city and the head traitors at Richmond, looking to a "reconstruction" on the following basis:

First. The States now in rebellion are to be placed under the present Congress, who are to present themselves at Washington as active traitors as to be liable to conviction as traitors within the strict definition of the Federal Constitution.

Second. The Union being so filled, will once have a joint conservative and rebel majority, who will proceed to notify the President that the rebellion is substantially ended; that the rebel States are all duly represented in the House; and that, consequently, his proclamation of freedom is null and void, and they are fully under the protection of the Constitution.

Third. Congress, thus reconstructed, is to proceed forthwith to repeal all acts of the last two years bearing hard upon the traitors, and to pass such others as may be necessary to secure perfect immunity and impunity to them all.

Fourth. A convention of the States is to be called, wherever the united conservative, Democratic and rebel strength is expected to be overwhelming, and is to be pledged beforehand to make whatever changes in the Constitution the slaveholding and slave-breeding interests may deem essential to their own future security and permanent well-being.

It is true that the South is supplied from England with goods, arms and vessels of war. The latter are built in her ports, and their destination is not unknown; but what shall we do about it? This country has, in its past history, given the widest interpretation to neutral rights. England will find, in our doctrine and practice, arguments and precedents to justify her want of stringency in preventing these things. We have respected belligerent rights for the benefit of neutrals, because the latter have usually been our own. It is our duty now to stand up to our past principles, if they are inconvenient. In the affair of the Trent, our people and Congress, undoubtedly, played the donkey, in assuming a position our past doctrines did not justify; and our Government had to recede from an indefensible position. Let not the folly be repeated. We can find precedents in English history to suit our wishes, and she will find in ours enough to refute our pretensions. Let us follow our own precedents, if they are against us now. We shall thus preserve our own self-respect at least, and get the benefit of our consistency hereafter.

THE ROANOKE.—This vessel is now rapidly approaching completion at the Novelty Iron Works, New York. The question whether she will float when plated is satisfactorily answered, as nearly all her armor is in place. There are no "egg-shell plates" in this vessel. The mail is solid iron, four and a half inches thick, worked in form with immense sledges and fires. Frequently a week is required to bore a single hole through this tough mass. There is no change whatever in the shape of the ship. Instead of making a guard forward to save the trouble of bending the plate, the iron has been beaten into the exact shape of the hull, laid on and fastened to it. There is the same thickness of armor in the bow and stern as on the sides; and this cannot be said of any other iron-clad vessel in the world. Even the Warrior and Gloire are not evenly plated throughout. The cost of the work exceeds even what the contractors expected. Men are scarce, and require thirty per cent. more pay than when the Roanoke left the Navy-yard. She will be reported ready for sea in about three weeks.

KIT CARSON IN THE FIELD.—During the past two weeks Colonel Kit Carson has, under the new order of things, been moving five companies of the First New Mexican volunteers to Fort Stanton, on the Pecos river, New Mexico, with the necessary military stores to rebuild and make it an outpost and defense against Indian depredations. That post, which, at the time of the shameful surrender of Fort Fillmore by Major Lyndes, was occupied by about the same number of troops as are now ordered there, was destroyed with all the military stores, amounting to about a million of dollars, by order of General Canby, under the pretext of preventing their falling into the hands of the Texans, who at that time were nowhere near there, and for six weeks afterwards were not in the Territory in sufficient force to have taken the post against one hundred determined men in the garrison.

CAPT. SEMMES AND NEUTRAL CARGOES.—The following is a copy of an indorsement written by Captain Semmes, of the Confederate steamer Alabama (200), on the register of the American ship Emily Farnum, captured by the Confederate States steamer Alabama on the 23d inst., while on her passage from New York to Liverpool.

The Emily Farnum, from New York, was captured by the Confederate States steamer Alabama on the 23d of October, 1862, and released because of a certificate of neutral cargo being found among her papers, and to serve the purpose of a cartel ship.

A letter in the Times says:

This may tend to allay the uneasiness felt by many merchants, both here and on the Continent, respecting the safety of neutral cargoes on board American ships when accompanied by a proper certificate.

The French line-of-battle ship Massena weighed anchor and proceeded to sea, from New York, on Wednesday morning, for Newport, R. I., under steam, with a strong breeze from the southwest. Her great draught, twenty-eight feet three inches, prevented her taking on board at New York more than ninety tons of coal, but on her arrival in the outer harbor, at Newport, she lay at anchor in ten fathoms of water. Here 250 tons of coal were brought in two schooners and placed on board, when she sailed for Vera Cruz.

(From the Philadelphia Eagle, Nov. 14.)
Interesting from Richmond and the South.

STATEMENT OF AN ALIEN—THE NEW REBEL STEAMERS.

From a gentleman who left Richmond on last Friday week, we gain the following interesting news. He has been in the South during the last five months, having reached the rebel Capital during the seven days' fight. Having ingratiated himself into the favor of the authorities, he was furnished with passes, which carried him throughout the entire South. About six weeks ago he was at Savannah, which city he reports as being by no means strongly fortified. The fortifications are on the water front of the city, extending from near the river and to its right, up toward the upper end. These works are mounted with heavy siege guns taken from the Norfolk Navy Yard.

When he was there, not a single iron plate had been fastened to the sides of the British steamer Florida, the head of which was down about one-half, and greatly strengthened on the sides by ten-inch beams of pitch pine, forming altogether a thickness of three feet and a half. The roof is to be made on the same principle of the Merrimack, and nothing but a large gun will be more than that she will carry a large gun. He feels positive that she will not be ready for service this year, at least. They have the woodwork for her bent prepared, but the iron casting is not yet on. Besides this ram Florida, they have two or three little gun-boats, as they call them, plying about on the river.

The citizens of Savannah have no hopes that the city will be held when the Federal forces undertake its capture. It has already been evacuated once or twice by large numbers of the wealthier class.

The people are particularly bitter against South Carolina. He had more than once heard them say that the South Carolina Carolinas had been swallowed up by an earthquake before the revolution.

Trade is only nominal, and the people prefer to keep what goods they have rather than sell for Confederate money, some instances this money is refused entirely.

Our informant was at Charleston at the time the Hero made her attempt to get out and run the blockade. This was her third unsuccessful effort to get to sea. The harbor is very well guarded. Since the capture of Sumpter the rebels have constructed two new forts well out in the harbor, while the shore is lined with batteries. Some of the guns on the forts are sixty-eight pound rifled, and others are new. At all the water points about Charleston, earthworks are thrown up, and on the roads to Savannah and Wilmington they have erected numbers of batteries commanding the bridges. A latent and strong Union feeling is existing even in this nest of treason. Many of the people are heartily tired of war, and would gladly welcome a peace under the old Stars and Stripes.

At the time our informant was there, not more than two thousand troops were in or near Charleston. Since the capture of Sumpter the rebels have constructed two new forts well out in the harbor, while the shore is lined with batteries. Some of the guns on the forts are sixty-eight pound rifled, and others are new. At all the water points about Charleston, earthworks are thrown up, and on the roads to Savannah and Wilmington they have erected numbers of batteries commanding the bridges. A latent and strong Union feeling is existing even in this nest of treason. Many of the people are heartily tired of war, and would gladly welcome a peace under the old Stars and Stripes.

Wilmington, N. C., is only a place in name. There is no trade, and when he was there most of the population had fled to the place. The town has the appearance of being perfectly dead to all activity or industry. Since his visit the yellow fever has made it more desolate than before. Physicians were sent there from Richmond, and provisions were also forwarded. Weldon the stores were all closed, and it was difficult to get a morsel of anything decent to eat or drink in the city.

At Weldon, there was only a cavalry regiment stationed on the Pope, Rome and Norfolk, and the advent of M. Drouyn d'Huys, seems to subside, if not at Turin, at least at Paris; and some who are very deeply interested in the long expected solution of the Roman question, see reason to hope or believe that the introduction of this new element does not mean the abandonment of it, but merely an adjournment.

Had the Emperor, we are told, made up his mind to take the Cabinet, and if so, he would have settled the matter long ago, sooner, and perhaps in a more summary fashion, than his late colleague. Yet M. Drouyn is still in the Cabinet, and if, as rumor will have it, the Minister of the Interior be soon "called to other functions," his retirement would be owing to other circumstances. The Optimists affirm that the Emperor's opinion on the Pope, Rome and Norfolk, generally are not set for anybody. Had the solution depended on him, he would have settled the matter long ago, sooner, and perhaps in a more summary fashion, than his late colleague. Yet M. Drouyn is still in the Cabinet, and if, as rumor will have it, the Minister of the Interior be soon "called to other functions," his retirement would be owing to other circumstances. The Optimists affirm that the Emperor's opinion on the Pope, Rome and Norfolk, generally are not set for anybody. 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